



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 25, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: October 24, 2004  
CWP WA-CW4304

## First Fall Frosts Pumpkin Farms Stayed Busy as Halloween Approaches

### Field Crops

The year's first fall frosts were reported in Benton, Spokane, Grant, and Grays Harbor Counties. Cooler weather started slowing winter wheat growth. In Grant County, dry grain harvest was slowed by cool temperatures and rain that fell the first part of the week. Soil fumigation for 2005 potatoes and onions were ongoing field activities in Grant County. Whitman County operators finished most of their fall field work, but some were waiting on dryer conditions before putting the chisel and plow away for the year.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 14% poor, 36% fair, and 49% good. Cattle were on fall pastures and calves were being weaned. Calves were either being retained and fed by producers or they were being shipped to buyers.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Pumpkin farms and corn mazes continued to be busy. Whatcom County raspberry fields were being pruned and tied. Grays Harbor County strawberry producers were busy planting new fields. Concord grape harvest in Benton County was completed and wine grapes were 85 percent harvested. Apple harvest continued to wind down throughout the state. Sweet corn harvest was winding down in Grant County. Squash harvest was at its peak in Kitsap County. Processing carrot harvest continued.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.5
Last Week	5.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	7	89	4
Topsoil 5Yr Avg	15	44	38	3
Subsoil	2	16	82	0
Subsoil 5Yr Avg	15	48	37	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Irrigation Water 5Yr Avg	0	6	94	0
Hay & Roughage	0	2	89	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	98	95	99	98
Winter Wheat Emerged	85	83	84	87
Potatoes Harvested	96	91	95	94
Corn Silage Harvested	97	82	96	99
Corn Grain Harvested	56	50	34	30
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	99	98	100	99

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	2	28	65	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** The rural landscape continued to be an ever changing tapestry of fall colors. A forecast of near freezing temperatures at the end of the week had ag producers racing to wrap outside pipes and drain irrigation equipment. A light frost was reported in the Elma area over the weekend. U-Pick pumpkin growers continued to report excellent sales. Commercial strawberry growers were planting new fields with runners removed from existing plants. Home gardeners were having a heap of fun making compost!

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Typical fall weather for late October was experienced. There still had not been a major killing frost.

**Kitsap:** Pastures were in great shape this fall. The rain and cool weather helped pasture grass recover from the long hot dry summer months. Fall produce was still available with squash and pumpkin production at its peak. Area pumpkin farms were hosting schools and families looking for that perfect jack-o-lantern.

**Pierce/South King:** No unusual situations or conditions reported. No report of crop damage due to a weather event. Most fall crops were harvested.

**San Juan:** Pasture conditions were moist but not saturated. Field work was progressing. Late tree fruit is to be harvested.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Weather was normal for this time of year. Intermittent rain showers were experienced. No apparent crop losses reported.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather presented average temperatures and some rain during the week. The weekend brought cool crisp sunny days for the pursuit of the great pumpkin at local U-pick fields. The corn maze business was brisk with much better weather then the past two weekends. Dairy farmer's big guns were busy spreading manure on recently harvested fields. Several dairies had reported getting their sixth cutting of grass off their fields.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Mild fall weather continued with occasional rain. Pasture growth was good but will slow down as weather cools. Pumpkin farms and corn mazes were busy! Christmas tree farms prepared for the upcoming holiday season.

**Thurston:** U-Pick Pumpkin growers reported record breaking sales volume as urban consumers took advantage of cool, brisk weather to find the perfect pumpkin for carving a Halloween Jack-o-Lantern. Livestock producers were draining irrigation equipment in anticipation of freezing temperatures. Christmas tree growers were "grooming" choose and cut fields. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and fertilizing rapidly growing fields which were seeded just a month ago.

**Whatcom:** Producers were trying to get the last of the corn silage, potato and green chopping harvest completed before the rains hit. The raspberry fields were being pruned and tied. We received three to four days of heavy rains and wind. It started to get a bit chilly in the evenings.

## Central

**Benton:** We continued to get some spotty rain and received our first frost over the weekend.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Concord grape harvest was complete and wine grapes were 85 percent harvested without a frost. Apple harvest was almost complete. Soil moisture conditions were improved with recent rain.

**Grant:** First significant frost occurred on Monday, October 25. Apple harvest was ahead of schedule and should conclude within the next week. The majority of field crops had been harvested with the exception of dry grain corn, which was delayed by cool temperatures and a major rainfall that occurred on Sunday, October 17. Yields on most crops were good in 2004.

**Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Sweet corn harvest was winding down. Processing carrot harvest continued. Soil fumigation for 2005 potatoes and onions was a major field activity. Fourth cutting of alfalfa hay was completed. Rain on Sunday, October 17 delayed field activities.

Fuji apple harvest was underway, and Red Delicious apple harvest was completed.

**Kittitas:** Apple harvest was winding down. Limited field work including plowing and discing old hay stands continued. Irrigation system improvements were completed. Recent heavy rains improved fall soil moisture.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** The county received from 0.5 to 1.6 inches of rain early in the week. Apple harvest, for the most part, was completed. Cattle were on fall pastures and calves were being weaned. Weaned calves were either retained and fed by the producer or were being shipped to buyers.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from two degrees below normal to five degrees above normal, with .31 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Activities were winding down with some corn grain and some apples still to be harvested. Most of 2004's bounty had been reaped at this point. CRP seeding conditions for those requiring reseed looked to be better than in any of the three previous falls. There were mostly adequate moisture levels needed to initiate cheat grass growth which could then be controlled prior to seeding. Seeding should begin in the next couple of weeks.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Precipitation last week helped improve the moisture conditions.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain improved conditions for crops and rangeland. There were still a few producers who were looking for drier weather so that they may complete fall planting.

**Lincoln:** Moisture conditions improved after precipitation. Winter wheat remained in mostly good condition.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week of wet weather and our first hard freeze were signs that fall is here and winter is approaching. Not much

field work was done this week due to the wet weather. Cooler weather also slowed the growth of winter wheat. Pasture conditions were much better than in previous years.

**Stevens:** Cattle producers continued to move calves to market. Winter wheat was in excellent condition. Snow appeared at the 2000 foot level Friday morning indicating that winter was just around the corner.

**Walla Walla:** Scattered showers, very cool nights, and overcast days were experienced. Area crops looked good.

**Whitman:** Fall arrived on the Palouse. Significant rains this fall have been a welcomed change from the very dry weather pattern that had become standard the last few years from September through November. Rains helped to improve crop and pasture conditions. Most operations finished fall field work, although some are still waiting on dryer conditions before putting the chisel and plow away for the year.

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

October 25, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	37	56	47	-2	1	-6	0	0	0.48	-0.37	4	8.08	3.61	181	28
Everett	39	60	49	-2	4	-4	0	0	0.58	-0.18	5	4.30	-0.12	97	28
Hoquiam	36	58	50	-3	7	-17	0	0	1.55	-0.02	5	9.06	1.25	116	29
Kelso	43	64	52	2	19	4	0	0	0.22	-0.74	3	3.77	-1.37	73	15
Olympia	38	60	49	2	5	-1	0	0	0.71	-0.39	6	7.40	2.06	139	28
Sea-Tac	41	59	50	-2	5	-10	0	0	0.32	-0.50	3	5.62	1.41	133	26
Shelton	34	60	49	-2	5	-9	0	0	1.32	-0.09	5	8.53	1.92	129	27
Tacoma	37	61	50	0	11	0	0	0	0.35	-0.49	4	5.39	1.10	126	24
Vancouver	40	63	53	3	21	7	0	0	0.84	0.05	6	4.13	-0.16	96	22
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	30	64	48	4	4	4	0	0	0.21	0.07	3	1.32	0.43	148	17
Stampede Pass	33	53	40	2	0	0	0	0	2.14	0.47	6	12.81	4.72	158	29
Wenatchee	35	59	48	0	2	-5	0	0	0.06	-0.08	3	0.90	0.20	129	14
Yakima AP	25	62	47	-2	1	-6	0	0	0.27	0.13	2	1.25	0.52	171	7
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	24	64	45	2	3	3	0	0	0.86	0.54	4	3.67	1.67	184	18
Deer Park	30	57	43	-2	0	0	0	0	1.20	0.91	5	3.48	1.85	213	20
Spokane AP	34	55	45	-1	0	0	0	0	0.63	0.37	3	1.60	0.19	113	13
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	31	61	48	-2	5	-4	0	0	0.20	0.06	4	1.51	0.84	225	12
Moses Lake	31	61	48	-2	3	-6	0	0	0.07	-0.07	2	1.06	0.39	158	9
Quincy	31	61	48	2	5	-1	0	0	0.35	0.21	3	0.82	0.06	108	7
Ritzville	29	63	46	-1	2	-1	0	0	0.24	0.03	3	1.00	-0.13	88	10
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	28	64	49	-4	10	-14	0	0	0.07	-0.03	2	0.85	0.24	139	9
Pasco	38	63	51	1	13	-4	0	0	0.25	0.11	4	0.73	0.01	101	11
Pullman	32	56	44	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.45	0.09	4	1.04	-0.97	52	14
Whitman Miss.	35	73	50	3	14	7	1	1	0.45	0.19	7	1.39	-0.04	97	18
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	34	55	45	-4	0	-7	0	0	1.38	0.98	5	3.82	1.50	165	18
Lewiston ID	38	68	50	0	12	-4	0	0	0.86	0.65	4	1.75	0.28	119	16

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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